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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9686
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2364
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 5858
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9424
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C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 000815

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EAP/MLS, DRL, AND IO
PACOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/21/2019
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [BM](#) [KTIP](#)
SUBJECT: BURMA: ILO REPORTS STRICTER PUNISHMENTS FOR
CHILD-SOLDIER RECRUITMENT

Classified By: Political Officer Brian Andrews for Reasons 1.4 (b) & (d)
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¶1. (C) Rangoon-based International Labor Organization (ILO) representative Steve Marshall told us December 21 that the GOB has dismissed a captain from the military (presumably via court-martial) and sentenced him to one year imprisonment in a civilian jail with hard labor for child-soldier recruitment. In the same case, two privates were sentenced to three months and one month military imprisonment with hard labor, respectively, and a sergeant and a warrant officer both lost 12 months' seniority for pension and promotion rights. After completing their sentences, the privates can return to the military, but the captain has been permanently discharged. Marshall called the case a "breakthrough," the first in which a member of the military was discharged and sentenced to civilian prison for recruiting child-soldiers.

Child Recruited Twice; ILO Assisted Both Times

¶2. (C) Marshall reported that the case involved a child who was first recruited when he was eleven. His parents solicited assistance from ILO, and ILO successfully pressed the GOB to discharge him. The child was recruited again two months later. The child informed his captors that he had previously been discharged, but they did not believe him and subsequently beat him repeatedly. ILO resubmitted the case and "kept the pressure on" until he was released, according to Marshall. The GOB informed ILO of the jail sentences on November 30.

Stricter Punishments for Child-Soldier Recruitment

¶3. (C) Marshall stated that in the past, the military would only issue reprimands in child-soldier recruiting cases. He noted punishments have increased in severity in 2009. As of December 16, 2009, a total of three military personnel have received reprimands, 16 have received serious reprimands, four have been subject to salary deductions, and one has lost 12 months' seniority for pension and promotion rights, in addition to the five penalized individuals mentioned above.

DINGER